

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Janet Bramley

DATE: March 31, 2000

RE: CRT Clients in Trouble with the Law: January – June 1999

Last week's PIP on "CRT Clients in Trouble with the Law: January – June 1999" was accompanied by incomplete and partly erroneous graphs and tables. A complete and correct copy of that page is attached, and a more accurate discussion of the results follows. Please discard the report we sent you last week, and accept our apologies.

This past December, we distributed two weekly reports that provided information on the rate at which CRT clients got into trouble with the law during the six months prior to the beginning of Vermont's "managed care" case rate reimbursement system for clients of Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs. At that time, we noted that the rate at which consumers of mental health services get into trouble with the law is increasingly recognized as an important indicator of mental health program performance. That criminal justice involvement by clients of Vermont's community programs for people with severe and persistent mental illness is among the indicators in an "Early Warning Monitoring System" developed in collaboration with HCFA consultant, Howard Dichter, for evaluating the impact of Vermont's change to case rate reimbursement.

As in the previous analysis, the population of CRT clients used in this analysis includes all clients who were assigned to the CRT program and had received at least one service from the CRT program during the month under examination or during one of the previous two months. All individuals who had been charged with a crime in a Vermont court during each month are counted as having been in trouble with the law. Because

Page Two

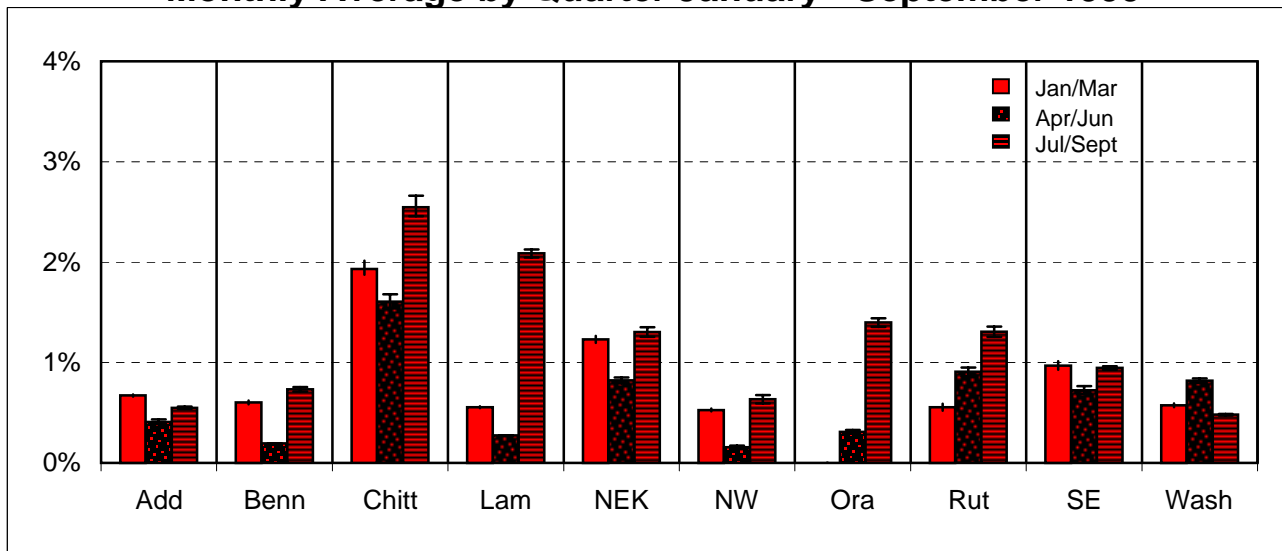
the mental health and criminal justice data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to measure the number of people who were represented in both data sets.

The first table and graph provide monthly averages for the last two quarters of FY1999 and the first quarter of FY2000. The second table and graph provide month by month detail for January through September 1999. As you will see, there was a substantial increase in the rate at which CRT clients got into trouble with the law between the last two quarters of FY1999 and the first quarter of FY2000. This increase was largely driven by substantial increases at Lamoille and Orange, two of the state's smallest programs.

These differences in the rate at which clients of CRT programs in Vermont get into trouble with the law could be accounted for by a number of factors other than the implementation of managed care. First, the differences might represent significant but random variation. As the time period under examination grows to include a longer period of time, the amount of "normal" month to month variation will become evident and can be taken into account in the statistical analysis. Second, seasonal variation in the rate at which people are charged with a crime may have influenced these results. Again, as the time period under examination grows, any seasonal patterns will become evident and can be taken into account in the statistical analysis.

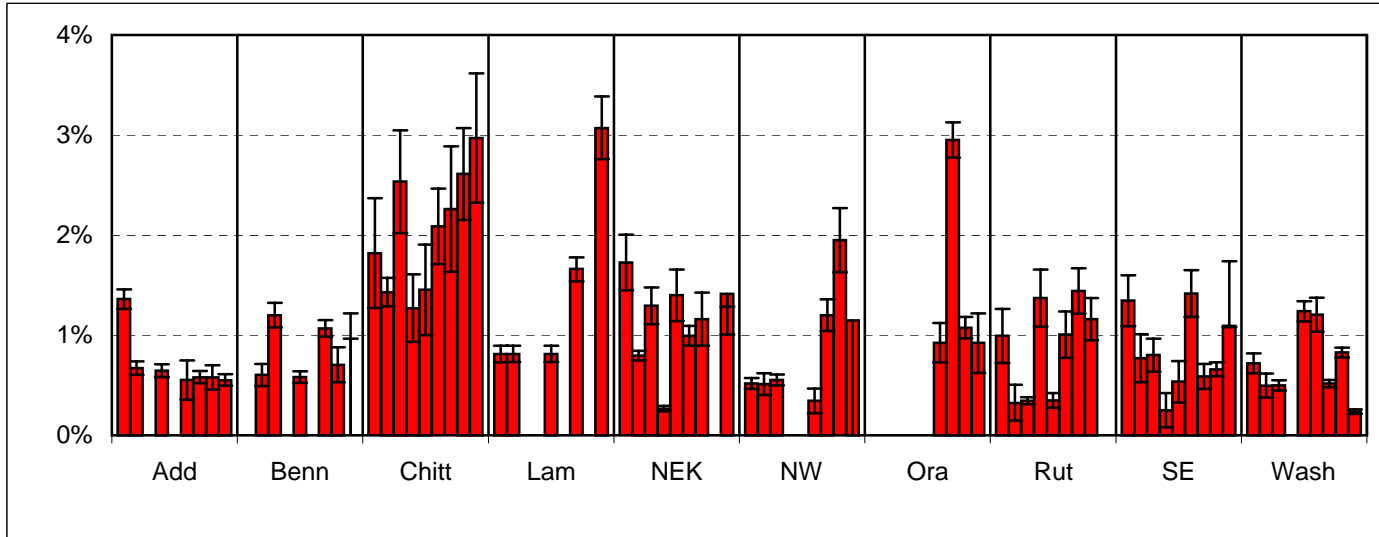
We will be especially interested in your interpretation of these results and your suggestions for other factors to take into account in our continuing analysis. Please give us a call (802-241-2638) or send an email (jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us) with your thoughts and suggestions.

PERCENTAGE OF CRT CLIENTS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: Monthly Average by Quarter January - September 1999



Clinic	Quarter					
	Jan/Mar	95% CI	Apr/Jun	95% CI	Jul/Sept	95% CI
Addison	0.67%	(0.66-0.68%)	0.41%	(0.39-0.43%)	0.55%	(0.54-0.56%)
Bennington	0.60%	(0.58-0.62%)	0.19%	(0.19-0.19%)	0.73%	(0.71-0.75%)
Chittenden	1.93%	(1.87-2.02%)	1.60%	(1.54-1.68%)	2.55%	(2.46-2.66%)
Lamoille	0.55%	(0.54-0.56%)	0.27%	(0.27-0.27%)	2.09%	(2.04-2.14%)
Northeast	1.23%	(1.2-1.26%)	0.82%	(0.79-0.85%)	1.30%	(1.27-1.34%)
Northwest	0.53%	(0.51-0.54%)	0.15%	(0.14-0.17%)	0.63%	(0.61-0.66%)
Orange	0.00%		0.31%	(0.29-0.33%)	1.40%	(1.36-1.43%)
Rutland	0.55%	(0.52-0.59%)	0.91%	(0.87-0.95%)	1.31%	(1.25-1.36%)
Southeast	0.97%	(0.93-1.01%)	0.72%	(0.68-0.76%)	0.95%	(0.9-0.99%)
Washington	0.57%	(0.55-0.59%)	0.82%	(0.8-0.84%)	0.48%	(0.47-0.49%)
State	0.76%		0.62%		1.20%	

PERCENTAGE OF CRT CLIENTS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: Monthly January - September 1999



Clinic		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Addison	Rate	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
	95% CI	(1.3%-1.5%)	(0.6%-0.7%)		(0.6%-0.7%)		(0.4%-0.7%)	(0.5-0.6%)	(0.4-0.7%)	(0.5-0.6%)
Bennington	Rate	0.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	1.1%	0.7%	0.0%
	95% CI		(0.5%-0.7%)	(1.1%-1.3%)		(0.5%-0.6%)		(1-1.1%)	(0.5-0.9%)	
Chittenden	Rate	1.8%	1.4%	2.5%	1.3%	1.5%	2.1%	2.3%	2.3%	3.0%
	95% CI	(1.3%-2.4%)	(1.3%-1.6%)	(2.0%-3.0%)	(0.9%-1.6%)	(1.5%-1.9%)	(1.7%-2.5%)	(1.7-3%)	(2.2-3.1%)	(2.3-3.6%)
Lamoille	Rate	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%	3.1%
	95% CI	(0.7%-0.9%)	(0.7%-0.9%)			(0.7%-9%)		(1.5-1.7%)		(2.8-3.4%)
Northeast	Rate	1.7%	0.8%	1.3%	0.3%	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%
	95% CI	(1.4%-2.0%)	(0.7%-0.8%)	(1.1%-1.5%)	(0.2%-0.3%)	(1.1%-1.3%)	(0.8%-1.0%)	(1.2-1.7%)		(1.1-1.7%)
Northwest	Rate	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.1%	1.6%	1.1%
	95% CI	(0.5-0.6%)	(0.4%-0.6%)	(0.5%-0.6%)			(0.2%-0.5%)	(1-1.3%)	(1.4-1.9%)	(1-1.3%)
Orange	Rate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	2.4%	0.8%	0.9%
	95% CI						(0.7%-1.0%)	(2.2-2.5%)	(0.7-0.9%)	(0.6-1.2%)
Rutland	Rate	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	1.4%	0.3%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	0.0%
	95% CI	(0.7%-1.3%)	(01%-0.5%)	(0.3%-0.4%)	(1.1%-1.7%)	(0.3%-0.4%)	(0.8%-1.2%)	(1.2-1.7%)	(0.9-1.4%)	
Southeast	Rate	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	1.4%	0.6%	0.5%	1.1%
	95% CI	(1.1%-1.6%)	(0.5%-1.0%)	(0.6%-1.0%)	(0.1%-0.4%)	(0.3%-0.7%)	(1.2%-1.6%)	(0.4-0.7%)	(0.5-0.6%)	(1-1.2%)
Washington	Rate	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%
	95% CI	(0.6%-0.8%)	(0.4%-0.6%)	(0.4%-0.6%)		(1.1%-1.3%)	(1.0%-1.4%)	(0.5-0.5%)	(0.7-0.8%)	(0.2-0.3%)